

Washington State Penitentiary

Local Family Council Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2012

Date/Time: Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.
PARTICIPANTS: CPPC Linda Finn, OA3 Jennifer Zaboth, Sgt. Rocky Beal, Brian Maguire, Unit Manager Vaaia Gaines, Wendy and Jennifer
RECORDER: Jennifer Zaboth, OA3

Welcome – Meeting was called to order by Linda and everyone present introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

RE-PURPOSING OF EC:

Key Points/Discussion: Sgt. Beal addressed the change in visitor check-in at the East Complex due to the re-purposing changes. Sgt. Beal explained that his staff was cut from 6 to 2 and that due to the policy relating to gender, there must be a male and a female office present. He explained that there are now 2 processing times allowing for a break for count and that the same visitors that were here for the first visiting time may come back for the second visiting time after the break.

Next Steps: None

Person Responsible: Sgt. Beal

NEW BUSINESS

VISITORS CHECK IN PROCESS:

Key Points/Discussion: It was asked by a family member why cardigan sweaters can be worn when there is a “no layering” policy regarding visitors dress and that there should be a specific handout for the visitors so they know all the rules. Sgt. Beal said there are visitor’s dress code policy handouts at the Public Access desk. On the question of cardigan sweaters, Sgt. Beal explained that elderly visitors were getting cold in the visiting room and he decided to let button only cardigan sweaters into the visiting room. That brought up the fact that it is quite cold in the visiting room and Sgt. Beal said he would contact the engineers and have it looked into. A family member brought up the inconsistency in what dress is allowed and what is not. She mentioned observing a woman being let into visiting without pantyhose while another woman was told she had to wear them.

Response: Sgt. Beal said the visiting room dress code no longer requires women to wear pantyhose. He said he would be sure to pass that information on to his staff. When asked why men can wear t-shirts under their shirt but women can’t layer their clothing, Sgt. Beal explained that the man’s undershirt is considered his underclothing much like a bra is underclothing for a woman.

The engineers have been contacted regarding the temperature in the visiting room and they will adjust it.

Person Responsible: Sgt. Beal

FOOD SERVICE:

Key Points/Discussion: A family member mentioned that the portion size of the meals was quite small for a grown man. Mr. Maguire addressed this issue and briefly explained that the inmates are served a balanced diet of appropriate calorie size and that he would have the Food Service Manager address this issue more specifically.

Response: The State Food Program determines the menu and portions. The menu has been reviewed by the State Dietitian to ensure it meets nutritional guidelines. Calories range between 2700-3000 calories.

Person Responsible: Kerri Robinson

INMATE LAUNDRY:

Key Points/Discussion: The laundry coming back from CI is still appearing dirty and the white clothes are gray. Mr. Maguire said Wes Marcum of Correctional Industries would address this issue.

Response: Our water temperature is 155 degrees. The wash cycles are set by the factory on some machines and by us on others. The wash cycle for the detergent is 8 minutes, 8 minutes for the bleach, which is followed by 3 rinses, the last of which has the Sour and softener in it. All of our chemicals are from Mt. Hood Solutions. We have not changed the type of chemicals for several years. Some of the problem I believe that is causing the greying of the clothes is hard water. Also the inmates from all units overload their laundry bags.

Person Responsible: Wes Marcum and Mike Ferguson

CURRENT COMMISSARY SITUATION:

Key Points/Discussion: There should be a few more healthy options on the commissary list. Especially for the IMU inmates who have such a limited list anyway. The possibility of expanding the IMU commissary list was also mentioned. Legal envelopes are needed on the list so the inmates may correspond with their attorneys.

The units can no longer just get pick up missed commissary orders now that it is no longer on WSP grounds. The inmates have to wait another 2 weeks before they can get their order. Ms. Gaines is currently working with Wes Marcum to resolve this issue.

Response: Level 4 inmates are currently the only inmates allowed commissary privileges in the Intensive Management Unit. The inventory is limited by virtue of policy limitations (dollar amount) and security requirements which limits offenders with Level 4 status to \$5 of food per week. The recent store revision brought positive changes in some of the hygiene items allowed. For example, shampoo is now allowed in larger quantity and there are several choices of soaps available. Changes to what items are available require all of the IMU's in the state to be in agreement. CI does not have the authority to make changes to the statewide IMU list and any requests for additional items should be directed to Steve Sinclair or John Campbell. Offenders who require a special diet due to health reasons are accommodated in this setting. Participation in the food service program ensures offenders meet the daily recommended caloric requirements.

Legal envelopes are available for the inmates for mailing legal proceedings. A verified court deadline must be established.

Person Responsible: Ron Knight/Lindsey Konrad

CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT:

Key Points/Discussion: A family member of an Intensive Management Unit inmate has requested a contact visit. It was also mentioned that the mailroom have a rule allowing one article at a time be sent in to an inmate. However, when the IMU staff finds the article, the inmate gets in trouble for having it because it is considered contraband and the IMU staff destroys it. Ms. Gaines suggest the mailroom mark the article as having come from the mailroom so the IMU staff knows it is an allowable item.

There was also the question as to why there is no OCL or OCL representative for IMU. Mr. Maguire explained that there is no OCL for IMU but that IMU inmates have the ability of addressing their concerns to Ron Knight.

It was asked if IMU is allowed calendars. Mr. Maguire said he would look into it and let the family member know.

Lastly, it was mentioned that prior to moving Death Row to IMU, the death row inmates had more contact with each other than they do now. Such as eating together, talking to one another, etc. They are in isolation now and it was asked if it was possible the death row inmates would be able to return to being held as before.

Response: Sgt. Fleenor confirmed there is a 1 article per envelope rule in policy. The inmates are also only allowed one article at a time in their cells. The mailroom will begin stamping the articles defined for IMU.

In 2008 Mr. Gentry, a death row inmate filed a complaint regarding the move of the death row inmates from Unit 5 to IMU. The state Supreme Court ruled that the move was not a violation of their rights and the move was upheld. Level 5 inmates are currently housed in the same mod in the IMU and are free to interact with each other as they wish.

DOC Policy 490.200 states "all visits between the ISDP and authorized visitors will be no contact."
DOC Policy 320.255 allows IMU inmates to have an address book. The address books have calendars in them.

Person Responsible: Ron Knight; Sgt. Fleener

OTHER TOPICS:

VISITING ROOM STAFF:

Key Points/Discussion: A family member mentioned that while the majority of the visiting staff is very kind and considerate, she had an experience in the visiting room in which an officer made her and other visitors quite uncomfortable. Sgt. Beal acknowledged the situation and said he would keep an eye on it. Both he and Mr. Maguire apologized and assured her that type of behavior is not condoned by the department. Sgt. Beal explained that he has just taken over the West Complex visiting room and he is still trying to get it organized.

Response: Sgt. Beal will address and future incidents as they arise

Person Responsible: Sgt. Beal

PUBLIC ACCESS SUGGESTION BOX:

Key Points/Discussion: It was suggested that the Local Family Council read the suggestions in the suggestion boxes at the meetings in an effort to address issues. Sgt. Beal said that was a good idea.

Response: None

Person Responsible: None

PHONES IN THE WEST COMPLEX:

Key Points/Discussion: A family member brought to the council's attention that in the small yard of F Unit, there are a few specific phones that just "cut off" when you are using them. It was then mentioned that the phones in the no contact visiting area in IMU do the same thing. There are three phones and two of the three either have static, the volume is too low or the volume is too high allowing people on the other side of the wall to hear conversations.

Response: If the family believes that their call was dropped/cut short they can call V-Connect @ 800-913-6097 Hours: 24 Hours per Day / 7 Days per Week. It is actually FSH who is contracted with GTL to provide phone repair service. They come in once a week (wed) and repair any phone problems that are reported. They have been in F Unit small yard recently. As for the phones in IMU visiting, Sgt. Walker checked each phone and reported on 2/24/12 that all the phones appear to be functioning properly at this time. If the problem arises again, he will have them looked at

Person Responsible: Rob Jackson/Sgt. Beal/Sgt. Walker

NEXT MEETING DATE:

April 7, 2012

East Complex Conference Room

9:00am to 10:30am